

Section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) sets an annual minimum family-sponsored preference limit of 226,000. The worldwide level for annual employment-based preference immigrants is at least 140,000. Section 202 prescribes that the per-country limit for preference immigrants is set at 7% of the total annual family-sponsored and employment-based preference limits, i.e., 25,620. The dependent area limit is set at 2%, or 7,320.

Section 203 of the INA prescribes preference classes for allotment of immigrant visas as follows:

FAMILY-SPONSORED PREFERENCES

SPOUSES, PARENTS AND CHILDREN UNDER 21 OF US CITIZENS ARE CONSIDERED IMMEDIATE RELATIVES AND THEREFORE ARE NOT SUBJECT TO THE NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.

FAMILY 1: Unmarried Sons and Daughters of U.S. Citizens: 23,400 plus any numbers not required for fourth preference.

FAMILY 2A: Spouses and Children of Lawful Permanent Residents: 77% of the overall second preference limitation, of which 75% are exempt from the per-country limit;

FAMILY 2B: Unmarried Sons and Daughters (21 years of age or older) of Lawful Permanent Residents: 23% of the overall second preference limitation.

FAMILY 3: Married Sons and Daughters of U.S. Citizens: 23,400, plus any numbers not required by first and second preferences.

FAMILY 4: Brothers and Sisters of Adult U.S. Citizens: 65,000, plus any numbers not required by first three preferences.

Required Documentation

To complete the process, the petitioner must submit:

- [Form I-130](#) (signed with proper fee), with all required documentation, including:
- Two completed and signed [G-325A forms](#) (one for you and one for your spouse)
- A copy of your civil marriage certificate